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12/32/02

Docket No. 5055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of Freydl et al.

Serial No. 09/913320

Filing date: August 10, 2001

Title: Method and Device for Processing Samples

Group Art Unit 1764 -- Examiner Manoharan

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 30 2002  
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

✓  
Please amend claim 13 of this application, and page 6 of the description, as attached.

REMARKS

This is a reply to the office action of September 27, 2002.

Page 6 has been revised as suggested by the examiner.

Claim 13 has been amended to better distinguish the invention from the prior art.

The examiner rejected claims 13 - 24 as anticipated by or obvious over any one of Kowarski, Kuhn et al. or Holland et al. We respectfully submit that the claims now presented are patentable over these references, taken individually or together.

Novelty of Claim 13

Claim 13 defines a device for evaporating samples, which device has holding means for simultaneously holding several sample vessels, and connection means connectable to the filling openings, by means of which the filling openings of the sample vessels individually or in groups are hermetically connectable to means for producing a vacuum and thereby may be evacuated. According to this invention, the sample vessels are to be connected to a source of